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Yumnu Uresin, Turkish Communications Minister, in a speech delivered on 5 December in Ankara discussed some of the progress made in the field of communications during the past 2 years. A summary of his talk is given below.

The Turkish State Railways network has been expanded to 8,000 kilometers of track, and its staff has increased to 40,000 workers. During the first 6 months of 1951, 363,000 freight cars were loaded in Turkey, and during the same period of 1952, this figure rose to 397,000. To be able to meet increasing transport needs in the years ahead, Turkey has rented from Yugoslavia and placed in operation 1,000 railway cars; it has further placed a purchase order for 1,000 freight cars, and is about to place another order for 1,000 more freight cars. In addition to this, special emphasis is being placed on car construction in the State Railways car repair factories. Further, the State Railways has purchased and recently put in operation 16 motor trains and has also ordered 20 autorailers for use on short lines.

Electrification of a 1,050-kilometer stretch of railway has been planned, and a contract will soon be let for construction of the first portion of this project, involving 27 kilometers of the Sirkeci in Eminonu District of Istanbul Province suburban railway line.

Although the two-motored planes which the Turkish government purchased in 1947 are still quite serviceable, improvement of Turkey's civil airfield installations to such an extent that they meet the requirements of the International Civil Aeronautics Organization is planned by the Communications Ministry, thereby paving the way for purchase and use of some four-motored planes to meet increased demands for service on Turkish domestic flights and to increase international air service.

Radiotelephones will soon be used in air-ground communications, thereby eliminating the need for a radio operator on each plane. With a view toward saving lives and property, the Communications Ministry has formed and placed in operation an air traffic control organization.

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